

Meeting Planners enjoy a Clown Doctors Workshop at the Marriott



PALM BEACH -- Clown Doctors Aruba, a not-for-profit local organization, helped deliver a fun, informal workshop at the Marriott Aruba Resort. The workshop was designed to entertain and inform a MARCAM familiarization trip on the island this past weekend.

Invited by Marriott & Renaissance Caribbean Resorts to sample Aruba's hospitality product, the fam trip dignitaries who are all top professionals in the travel industry in the USA, asked to be introduced to a local charity.

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Renaissance Marketplace and Bestial TV partner to find Aruba's "Next Top Dog"

ORANJESTAD - Shohaira Barnes de Silva, host of Bestial TV, announced on Monday, November 2, she is conducting with sponsorship of Purina Products a very special talent hunt in search of Aruba's "Top Dog." The month long search will begin with a semi final round on Sunday, November 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM in the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad; the final selection of Aruba's Next Top Dog will be on Sunday, November 28, during the Renaissance Island Extravaganza Event.

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	Price of a barrel of petroleum US\$ 77.43 ↓ 2.19
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Renaissance Marketplace and Bestial TV partner to find Aruba's "Next Top Dog"



Continued from Front Page
 "The contest is not about cute costumes or dressing up your dog," explained Shohaira, "it is about how you love and treat your companion, and what sort of personality they have. It is about your relationship with your dog, and how well you take care of them." The panel of judges will have a point system by which they

will grade the animals and their owners, and having a vaccination book from the Veterinarian's office available when registering your dog for the contest will win points. "After all," she expressed, "how can you say you love you dog if you don't have them properly immunized? It is not required, but will be a plus in the final awarding of prizes,"

Shohaira concluded. A strict requirement of eligibility is that dogs be no younger than 5 months old.

Local papers will publish inscription forms, which can be deposited in special boxes located by The Cinemas in the Renaissance Marketplace by November 10.

Entrants must include a picture, either of their dog, or master and their dog together. Fifty candidates will be accepted for the contest, and will be notified within 3 days. On Friday, November 13, instructions for all those participating in the first elimination rounds will be given during a session at the stage area in front of The Plaza Café in the Renaissance Marketplace. The semi-finals will narrow down the field to ten finalists.



SETAR NV, Aruba's national telecommunications company is setting up a website where the entrants can be viewed, and anyone can vote for their favorite candidate via SMS. Aside from the judges' decision, there will be prizes for the most popular dog.

Winners will receive a gift basket of Purina products including bags of Beneful dog food, and second prize will be a special photo session for dog and owner with Angelo Trimon Photo Studios. For more information and updates visit www.bestialtv.com.

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The 4th annual Dr Bryson Symposium concludes with dinner at Amazonia Churrascaria



PALM BEACH – A seminar appropriately titled Potpourri in Pediatrics took place this past weekend at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, Grand Caribbean Ballroom.

The seminar program was put together by tireless, local pediatrician Dr. Joel Rajnherc and it featured local doctors as speakers, sharing from their vast experience with their peers in the medical profession.

As the festive conclusion to a fruitful day of discussions, the speakers of the symposium, convened for dinner at Amazonia Churrascaria, in the private dining room.

Great food, is good medicine, said Dr. Joel Rajnherc, who is already planning the 5th annual gathering for Aruba's medical community, which is eager to network and share information on subjects of general interest to the community, next year. □



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Great turnout for the Personal Awareness Security Seminar with Frank Pedrozo



PALM BEACH — Frank Pedrozo of the Ackerman Group LLC, visited the island recently and gave a Personal Awareness Security Seminar. Many local companies among them Costa Linda Beach Resort, Casa del Mar, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, Marriott Beach Resort, the Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation, Caribbean Mercantile Bank, Several Staff Members from the Korps Politie Aruba, Gandelman Jewelers, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Special Security Services



Bonaire took advantage of the opportunity to meet the crime prevention specialist, and hear from his experience how to prevent and prepare for possible home or business invasions, extortions and other related crimes. Aaron J. M. Antersijn, Safety & Security Consultant of Security Solutions Consultancy, invited Pedrozo to come to the island a while back, and when the busy speaker finally had an opening on his schedule in October, the seminar was arranged.

"I had the opportunity to participate in a seminar given by Pedrozo," Antersijn

explains, "and I realized how many things we can do on a daily basis to make ourselves a tougher target. Our actions can definitely prevent us from becoming victims of crime, big or small, and we should be more conscientious, as far as safety and security are concerned."

While both Pedrozo and Antersijn agreed that Aruba cannot be considered a high risk location, nevertheless with the island's proximity to countries where violence is more prevalent, residents should be aware of their options.

The Personal Security Awareness Seminar was

greatly enjoyed by those who attended it. A cocktail party at Moomba Beach introduced the speaker to the local press, the night before. The seminar on the following day unfolded at Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa.

Antersijn who just recently attended the largest electronic Security Expo in the world, reports that his company will continue offering a series of residential/personal security awareness workshops in different island districts and will continue to teach CPR/ First Aid, and Heart Saver Awareness Program, to service providers in the tourism industry. □



KING DEALS

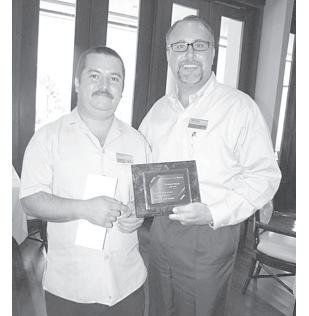
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Honor lunch at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa



a warm tribute from his colleagues in the kitchen for his talent and creativity and for his tireless productivity as he was announced the top colleague for August.

Joining Alejandro Jhoel Arquinigo, Laguna restaurant, Kimberly Ruiz, Front Office

and Elizair Pourier, Guest Service, who earned their certificate of distinction for caring, and sharing, and applying themselves, in August.

Pictured here, positive energy, and positive attitude, rewarded at the Radisson. □



PALM BEACH — Outstanding performers for July & August were highly-praised at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, at a festive lunch hosted by the resort's AAA four-diamond rated restaurant, the Sunset Grille.

Hotelier Rob Smith who just recently joined the resort as its General Manager expressed his profound gratitude to those whose stellar performance earned them a well-deserved spot

on the resort's Star Team. Excellence in overall service, he reiterated, depends on the job quality delivered by individuals in the field, who are in daily contact with guests, and who continuously help improve the resort's already-high customer satisfaction scores.

For July, Fernando Giraldo won top honors for his dedication to work, his agreeable disposition, and his excellent attendance record. Linda James,

Laguna Restaurant, Cesar Taboada, Pool & Beach, Rodimar Statia, Sunset Grille and Dexter Scott, Engineering joined Fernando to receive a round of applause and a certificate of recognition for their "Yes, I can attitude," during the month of July.

For August, Alejandro Cuzcano outshone all other nominees. The famed pastry chef, the man responsible for the resort's delicious desserts received

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*** Human Hints Daily ***

You Won't Find Completion in Separation

When we want three dimensional things to fulfill us, we seek validation from an illusion. We search outside of ourselves for something that is separate from us, in order to complete ourselves. In this way, acquiring or wanting something drives us away from ourselves, and takes us further from our goal of self-completion. The more stuff we acquire, the further we get from who we really are inside.

We also reach outside of ourselves when we think a certain situation will make us happy. The idea is to be happy and complete before the situation occurs. Become

complete inside, and your external world will reflect that completeness.

This is not to say that you can't have three dimensional belongings. It can be a lot of fun to be an enlightened millionaire. What makes the difference is your attitude toward your stuff, your reason for having it. Do your possessions define you or do you define them? If everything you own went up in flames today, would you feel loss or an opportunity to grow and redefine yourself? You let go of the past by focusing on your future.

The more three dimensional

stuff we have in our lives, the more of our energy is held by it. This is the actual energy of our Life Force, which we could be using for other means such as conscious manifestation.

Our three dimensional possessions consume our energy. Everything we own takes up a piece of our Life Force. The percentage of our energy held by any given three dimensional thing depends on how attached to it we are. The more attached we are to our stuff, the more we are using it to define us. It is alright to have things, just don't let them define who you are. When we seek validation and definition in the three dimensional

world, we fall into the illusion of separation.

When we become aware of Unity Consciousness, we realize that all three dimensional things come from the same source. We are all pieces of the Mass Consciousness. We begin to understand that we each generate our hologram from the same energy source. We learn to naturally access the Infinite Abundance of the Universe.

When you look for completion outside of yourself, you become more separate, less complete. When you rely on an external force, whether it's a person, a situation or a thing, you are subjecting yourself to their flippant whims. When you connect your emotions to something you cannot control, you become vulnerable and you give away your sovereignty. You are giving your power to an illusion.

When you find completion inside yourself, you empower your personal foundation. When you know yourself, you will remain

alm and centered when the Winds of Change blow through this three dimensional plane of expression. Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Valero books charge of \$140 million for third quarter

As a result of a tax dispute with the government of Aruba, Valero Energy Corp. has booked an additional charge of \$140 million, or 25 cents a share, widening the company's loss in the third quarter to \$629 million, or \$1.12 a share.

Valero noted the charge in a regulatory filing Thursday, saying it is "related to our dispute of a turnover tax on export sales and other tax matters involving the government of Aruba," where the San Antonio-based company owns a refinery.

An arbitration panel in the Netherlands ruled Tuesday that Valero is exempt from income tax for refining operations through 2010, but two other items in the arbitration weren't fully resolved and "remain subject to further review," Valero said in a statement.

"Valero continues to believe that its remaining claims against these taxes have significant merit and intends to vigorously pursue these claims through the arbitration proceedings and in proceedings in Aruba," the company said.

On Oct. 27, Valero reported a third-quarter net loss of \$489 million, or 87 cents a share, compared with net income of \$1.2 billion, or \$2.18 a share, for the same period in 2008. □

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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant
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CRAZY FISH MONDAY @ BUGALOE

Fresh 18oz Snapper or Grouper for only \$ 20

PALM BEACH - Fresher than fresh, is the motto of the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at De Palm Pier. Caught in the morning, served at night... That's the Bugaloe way!

Jumbled Chef Marc Hernandez is proudly presenting his rich platter with an 18oz Red Snapper or Grouper, a choice depending on the catch of that day. "Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was just a logical step for me to go crazy with this colorful pallet

of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

And right he is, as the platter has been a hit from the start. Served with a bottle of white wine this fish feast is truly a delight on your Monday night.

Bugaloe is located at
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OPENING HOURS

Bugaloe Beach Bar and Grill is open daily from 8am till midnight. You may go there for a casual lunch or dinner and on Mondays the special is served from 5:30pm till 10:00pm. Reservations are not needed... just follow the good music, the fun and the smiles on the beach and you will know where Bugaloe is.



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Meeting Planners enjoy a Clown Doctors Workshop at the Marriott



Continued from Front Page

Karin Swiers, Marketing Communications Manager, Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino selected the Clown Doctors, an organization dedicated to visiting ailing children in the hospital, keeping the elderly living in government institutions company and helping teach mentally and physically challenged kids.

Swiers asked the Artistic Consultant and Ambassador of the Clown Doctors Aruba, Wim Jan Piet Vanden Wijngaert, better known as Froesjes the Clown, to visit the resort and spread some of his magic around.

The morning workshop took off with a short, humorous/serious presentation by Froesjes, and a well-edited, touching video shot by Randall Brown, featuring the clowns in action. Froesjes then took the meeting planners through a series of exercises which immediately connected them with their inner child, resulting in play and laughter,

warmth and familiarity, emotions which the Clown Doctors use as distraction and medicine with the clients/patients.

The seminar concluded with hugs, and red clown noses for all participants, also some generous donations for the organization, much-needed funds which will continue to bring smiles and hope to children and elderly in need.

Froesjes was awarded a giant heart-shaped cookie from Swiers and in turn thanked Ronni & Yvonne his helpers for their tremendous contributions to a successful morning.

The workshop was also actively attended by Marriott Executives Antoinette van den Berg and Jennie Nakoa, who participated with great enthusiasm. Delicious lunch wrapped up a most-enjoyable morning.

To support the Clown Doctors, look for a box at the Reina Beatrix International airport and at the local supermarkets. All donations, big & small, are welcome!





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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.

Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba".

Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars



Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the

stars.

The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting. The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing, are real crowd pleasers.

True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing. The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy



USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon.

Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. www.manchebo.com steakhouse

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is widely recognized as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace, raising the restaurant to a must-visit, must-try status.

The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh margaritas, leaves nothing out, fruit or ice cream smoothies, including Yellow Birds, Sex daiquiris, coladas and on the Beach and Mudslides,



making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get! The Pega Pega, one of Aruba oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with

unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □

Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort &

Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price.

The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Executive Chef George Hoek is the resort's much-appreciated culinary expert. He was the recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association in collaboration with the Digicel Group. Chef George accepted the Shoco Award, the national award of excellence, and Aruba's top professional decoration, in the tourism industry. □

Govt promises quality budget by month's end

PHILIPSBURG--Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman says the 2010 budget should be tabled in the Island Council by the third week of this month.

The budget should be presented to the Executive Council on November 12, after which it will be sent to the Central Committee.

Blackman said at a press conference Thursday that government's technocrats and those of the Committee for Financial Supervision CFT were working on the draft budget. The main focus is on reducing some NAf. 30 million in deficits, to present a balanced budget. This, the commissioner insists, still will be quite a stretch considering the economic climate and the drop in government revenues.

CFT has given the National Alliance/Heyliger government until November 18 to complete and submit the budget in accordance with the more stringent rules that are geared to tidying up St. Maarten's financial status as it heads into country status.

Blackman said the budget should be delivered to CFT before the deadline.

He said that despite having missed several

deadlines along the way in the preparation of the budget, it still would be presented much earlier than past ones.

Budgets of the past, he said, often were presented "deep in December," but this one should be taken care of before the end of this month. "With this budget we are focusing on quality, not speed." Coming up with a balanced budget continues to be a "daunting task" for St. Maarten because of past practices, he said. In years gone by the strict rules of CFT were not in place and those rules that governed the finances were not always followed to the letter.

Budgets were presented as balanced in the past with deficits carried over to the next year and spread out.

This practice has placed the island territory in a position wherein it is now struggling to present a balanced budget in just one year.

Unlike Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, St. Maarten and Curaçao were not allowed a period to get their deficits under control.

The rules were changed from one year to the next. The difficulties this change has presented for the island territory have been discussed

by Blackman and Leader of Government Commissioner William Marlin with CFT and the Dutch Government.

The large budget deficit is not a chronic situation, Blackman said.

With the dismantling of the Central Government by 10-10-10, the taxes and other revenues generated in St. Maarten, but now sent to Curaçao, will remain on-island and will be taken up in Country St. Maarten's budget.

These revenues, some NAf. 80 million, will go a long way in balancing the budget in the future. At present, the focus is on simply "bridging the gap" for 2010 and the presentation of a "realistic budget," the commissioner explained. "St. Maarten's financial potential is good. It is just a matter of timing and bridging the gap for 2010."

Amendments to the 2009 budget, which was presented as balanced by the former Democratic Party (DP) government, are being worked on in conjunction with the 2010 budget preparation. Blackman said the two processes couldn't be separated, as they were interlinked. □

La Langosta Balneaire

*Hand made bathing suits
and one of a kind*

What can you have in common with Catherine Zeta-Jones? Well if you don't her money, looks or talent yo can still own a unique, one of a kind creation such as she is wearing.



It was the opinoin of Life and Style Weekly that she looked pretty terrific in her sequined suit by Marielys Jimenez, who makes her home in Aruba! This is where Marielys started her tiny littke shop seven years ago.

*Shhhh...
Shopping
secrests
of
Aruba*

If yo have a body like Catherine, yo will look terrific in one of Marielys beaded or embroidered bikinis, or if yo are more modest, her maillots are to die for, each one unique & reasonably priced.

You will find Marielys's new flagship shop tucked away in the Paseo Herencia Mall across from te ticket booth for The Cinemas



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Monday Seafood Sampler

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Commodors Cup: Gill new title sponsor for Caribbean event



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PHILLIPSBURG - The Steering Committee that organizes the Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta on behalf of the Sint Maarten Yacht Club is pleased to announce the introduction of a new title sponsor for the Commodores Cup. GILL, a worldwide leader in marine technical clothing, will sponsor the Commodores cup in 2010 under the title Gill Commodores Cup. This event takes place March 4th, 2010 and will offer windward leeward courses for spinnaker classes only. The commodores cup is a pre-event to the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, designed to give those crews and the fleet an additional day of racing. It is only open to spinnaker and racing classes and focuses on windward, leeward courses that are generally favored by the more serious racers. The one day event provides racing off the south coast of Sint Maarten and the opportunity for the many international crews who are visiting from the wintry



north to adapt themselves and their vessels to the Caribbean climate and conditions. The event is in its fourth year and has proven to be a highly regarded part of the overall formula of the overall regatta event. The Gill Commodores Cup is scored separately from the main event but the parties

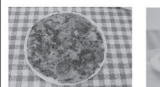
and administration are integrated into the overall St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. Gill clothing is a world class sailing brand with one of the widest and most innovative ranges including many products highly suitable for the often underestimated challenges of sailing in the Caribbean weather. The partnership with Gill is therefore highly suitable and appropriate for this event. Gill will offer on site through Budget Marine a Commodores Cup clothing collection decorated with the Commodores Cup Regatta Branding. □

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Contador - champion of Curaçao



by Nick Mulder

Alberto Contador (Astana) has won the Amstel Curaçao Race for the second time. The two-time Tour de France champion escaped just before the finish line at the Lions Dive & Beach Resort. Tour de France sprint champion, Thor Hushovd (Cervélo TestTeam), claimed second while Dutch National champion Koos Moerenhout (Rabobank) finished third.

The race was briefly delayed after rain showers threatened to ruin the show.

The decisive move was made by Moerenhout during the closing kilometers of the race with an attack on the climb up the Julianabrug. Only Contador and Hushovd could follow, with Contador taking his second win in the event after also winning on the Caribbean island back in 2007. □

Winnair announces special fares in observance of islands' national day

PHILIPSBURG, Netherlands Antilles -- Regional airline, Windward Islands Airways International (WINNAIR) has announced special fares in observance of three special events to take place in three of its nine destinations. The events are St Maarten Day, which will be observed on November 11; St Eustatius Day on November 16 and Saba Day on December 4.

According to the airline's Vice President of Marketing, Claudio Buncamper, the specials that are being offered is geared towards further demonstrating the airline's commitment, determination and appreciation for the islands that they serve. He noted that serving these islands for some decades now they have recognized that constantly giving back will serve in further boosting the excellent relationship that they share with their brothers and sisters in these islands.

"We thought it best to have a special implemented for these events as we are cognizant of the level of support and patronage that we receive. As such, we have decided to have this sizzling special which I am sure is a true demonstration of our continued commitment," Buncamper said.

He disclosed that fares will start as low as US\$4 one-ways to Saba, US\$11 to St. Maarten and US\$16 to St Eustatius. He however noted that seats are very limited urging the traveling public to make full and advantageous use of the

special which he said has special conditions. In giving an insight into the special conditions that applies, Buncamper said that fares are flight specific, seats are limited while he noted that they can be purchased at Winnair sales offices in St Maarten, Saba, St Eustatius and On-line.

He added that fares are non changeable, non refundable pointing out that airport taxes and surcharges have been excluded along with service fees.

Boasting about his company's impressive track record of being a community oriented airline, Buncamper said that they recognizes that to forge a lasting relationship such as his a company certainly needs to ensure that they play a pivotal role in the community development of the various islands.

"It is a partnership and therefore we do not only seek to maintain a business but rather we seek to maintain a relationship as we strongly feel that it will help in enhancing our service while ensuring that we can make a meaningful contribution to the island's growth and development," he noted.

Buncamper also joined with the airline's Managing Director, Edwin Hodge in wishing residents and citizens of these islands a joyful and safe celebration of their annual day urging them to continue seeking ways in boosting the relationship between themselves and the airline. □

For future reference

The decision by Divi Little Bay Beach Resort to no longer allow non-guests visiting the beach to use its parking lot has led to a call by St. Maarten Pride (see Thursday paper) to amend the beach policy and make it an ordinance. The main argument is that the local beaches are public and should be freely accessible to the general population.

Few will disagree with that, but the discussion raises the question what government realistically can do in this case and in other, similar situations that already exist. After all, while the beach is public, the parking lot of the resort certainly is not and the resort has every right to restrict access to and use of its private property for which it is also legally responsible in case of a mishap or accident.

In this particular case there is no other place to park near the beach involved, while walking to it from outside the resort is not exactly an attractive option. The beach can still be accessed from Belair Beach next door, of course, but – again – the resort with that name also has its private parking.

Maintaining free access to beaches is nothing new, of course, and in most cases a pathway is kept open. That does not mean the owners of land adjacent to the beach have to provide a roadway and parking for cars, however. What can be done for future reference is to require that any beachside development leave some public space where visitors to "their" beach would be able to park. When it comes to existing properties, however, government's resources are few and far between, so there is not much that can be done except to simply leave the car outside the resort and hike to the beach. □

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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stock volatility is back, a sign of an aging bull?

By MARK JEWELL,
AP Personal Finance Writer
Stock market volatility is back, a signal to some experts that the powerful rally that started in early March may be coming to an end. The Dow Jones industrial average rose or fell more than 100 points in seven of the past 12 trading days, capped by a 205-point advance on Thursday that left the index almost 53 percent higher than its closing level on March 9. The Dow's muted 17-point gain on Friday masked the fact that it swung nearly

108 points throughout the day after the government reported the unemployment rate rose to 10.2 percent in October. The latest volatility surge comes after a calm stretch. Over the preceding two months, there were just eight days where the daily Dow change exceeded 100 points. While the volatility brings back memories of last fall's financial crisis, few analysts are predicting a huge downdraft is coming. Instead, they say it's not uncommon to see choppy trading patterns

when investors begin to fret that a bull market is running out of steam. "We've had a heck of a rally, and we're at one of those inflection points, where people are trying to figure out if they should sell their winners or not," says Scott Burns, a Morningstar Inc. analyst. "There's all this uncertainty surrounding health care and unemployment. People are just really confused about what to do, and that is contributing to volatility." A closer look at what's driving volatility:

INDICATOR WHIPLASH: Investor anticipation of an economic recovery played a large role in the stock market's advance over the last eight months. But recent economic indicators have been sending mixed signals, leading some economists to predict a double-dip recession and others to forecast a recovery as steep as the decline.

"The market anticipated the event, the event took place, and now the market is looking for the next event," says Bruce Bittles, chief investment strategist for Robert W. Baird & Co. The Dow jumped 200 points on Oct. 28 after the government reported the economy grew at a 3.5 percent pace in the July-September quarter. But the stock gains were more than canceled by a 250-point slump the next day. The trigger: a consumer confidence report that showed there's still pervasive anxiety about a recovery, particularly as unemployment continues rising. On Thursday, investors interpreted jobless claims



In this photo made Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, specialists Scott Wetzel, Michael Bonnanno and Peter Gaicchi, left to right, and Gennaro Saporito, foreground right, work at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock market volatility is back, a signal to some experts that the powerful rally that started in early March may be coming to an end.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

falling more than expected, retailers posting a second straight month of sales gains and productivity rising at an annual rate of 9.5 percent in the third quarter as all being good news.

MONEY MANAGERS: Mutual fund managers who control some \$5 trillion invested in stocks often switch from buying to selling whenever rallies show signs of faltering. The goal is to lock in gains from rising stock prices. Normally, that happens in December to dress up returns and put a positive spin on year-end results. But sometimes managers lock in gains earlier if the market is in a sustained rally. And many mutual funds close the books for their fiscal year at the end of October, motivating managers to make a move before November. "Why not beat the Christmas rush and start taking some profits now?" says Art Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co. Likewise, money managers

are just as likely to dive back in if they think short-term profits are there for the taking. Think of it as renting stock, not owning it for the long term.

M E L T D O W N AFTERSHOCKS: Gains or losses of more than 100 points in the Dow became common late last year, and the market still hasn't calmed to the extent you can expect a steady ride, says Bob Doll, chief investment officer at BlackRock Inc., a money management firm. Recoveries are typically choppy, as investors zigzag before stocks eventually settle into a narrow range, he says. Dan Deming, a trader with Stutland Equities, says many money managers are just content to wrap up the year. "It's a psychology that drives a big chunk of the market," he says. "This is not a typical year, and we've seen huge gains. People are looking to take risk off the table, and looking to get out of the market." □



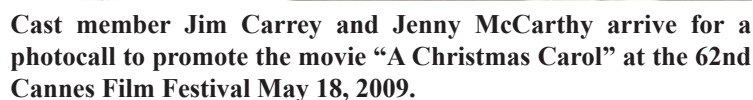
CEO of state-controlled Statoil, Helge Lund, speaks at a news conference in Oslo, Norway Wednesday Nov. 4, 2009. Norwegian oil company Statoil ASA posted a 5 percent rise in third-quarter profits, saying gains on currency values helped offset sagging oil and gas prices. Statoil on Wednesday said net profit for the July through September period inched up to 6.6 billion kroner (\$1.1 billion) from 6.3 billion kroner in 2008.

(AP Photo/Scanpix/Lise Aserud)

Survey: Gas prices up 2.86 cents nationwide

CAMARILLO, Calif. — The average price of regular gasoline in the United States has jumped 2.86 cents over a two-week period to \$2.68.

That's according to the national Lundberg Survey of fuel prices released Sunday. Analyst Trilby Lundberg says the average price for a gallon of mid-grade was \$2.81. Premium was at \$2.93. Tucson, Ariz., had the lowest average price among cities surveyed at \$2.36 a gallon for regular. Anchorage was the highest at \$3.30. In California, prices were down slightly. A gallon of regular cost an average of \$2.96. Fresno had the state's least expensive gas at \$2.83 a gallon. San Francisco remained the steepest at \$3.04. □



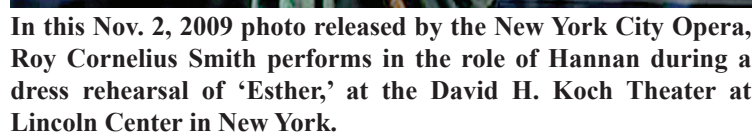
Carrey's 'Christmas Carol' wraps up \$31M weekend

Director Robert Zemeckis shot the movie using the same performance-capture technology used on his 2004 holiday offering "The Polar Express." Carrey and his co-stars acted on a bare soundstage as digital cameras caught their performances, with computer animators later adding costumes, sets, props and other effects. □

PEOPLE & ARTS | **A15** Monday, November 9, 2009

**New York City Opera revives
'Esther' — and itself**

Esther's progression from dreamy-eyed young girl to concubine and wife to Xerxes and finally to heroic savior of her people is charted in music filled with yearning and uncertainty. Vashti, the wife Xerxes banished because she refused to dance naked before his followers, sings to rhythms that pulsate with her sense of injustice and self-pity. And Haman and his wife, Zeresh,



By choosing “Esther” to open the season (following a gala concert Thursday night), the company’s new director, George Steel, was making a statement about continuing its legacy as a home for modern American opera. NYCO sits on the same Lincoln Center plaza as the Metropolitan Opera and has long been overshadowed musically and financially by the larger company. □

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W. Africa's last giraffes make surprising comeback



By **TODD PITMAN**,
Associated Press Writer
KOURE, Niger — A crisp African dawn is breaking overhead, and Zibo Mounkaila is on the back of a pickup truck bounding across a sparse landscape of rocky orange soil.

The tallest animals on earth are here, the guide says, somewhere amid the scant green bush on one side, and the thatched dome villages on the other.

They're here, but by all accounts, they shouldn't be.

A hundred years ago, West Africa's last giraffes numbered in the thousands and their habitat stretched from Senegal's Atlantic Ocean coast to Chad, in the heart of the continent. By the dawn of the 21st century, their world had shrunk to a tiny zone southeast of the capital, Niamey, stretching barely 150 miles (240 kilometers) long.

Their numbers dwindled so low that in 1996, they numbered a mere 50.

Instead of disappearing as many feared, though, the giraffes have bounced miraculously back from the brink of extinction, swelling to more than 200 today.

It's an unlikely boon experts credit to a combination of concerned conservationists, a government keen for revenue, and a rare harmony with villagers who have accepted their presence — for now.

There are nine subspecies of giraffes in Africa, each distinguished by geographic location and the color, pattern and shape of their spotted coats.

The animals in Niger are known as *Giraffa camelopardalis peralta*, the

most endangered subspecies in Africa. They have large orange-brown spots that fade into pale white legs.

Ten years ago, an estimated 140,000 giraffes inhabited Africa, according to Julian Fennessy, a Nairobi, Kenya-based conservation expert. Today, giraffes number less than 100,000, devastated by poaching, war, advancing deserts and exploding human populations that have destroyed and fragmented their habitats. Around half the giraffes live outside game parks in the wild, where they are more difficult to monitor and protect, Fennessy said.

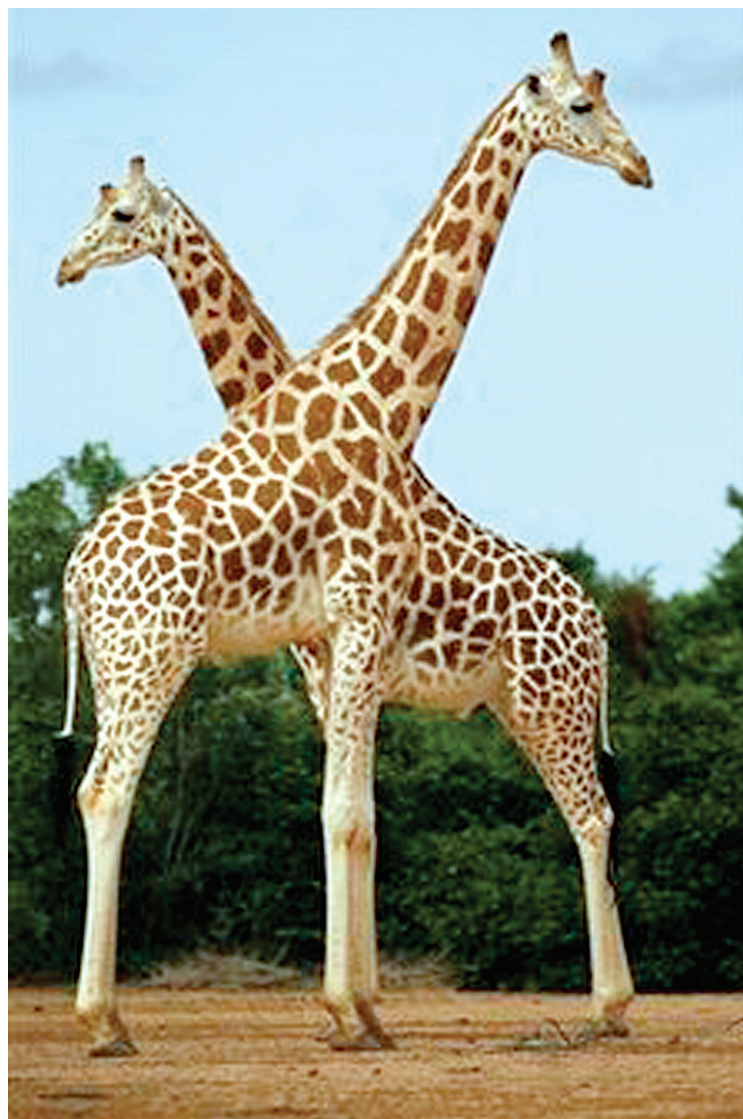
Giraffe hunting is prohibited in many countries. And some, like Kenya, have taken

giraffe meat off the menu of tourist restaurants that once served them up on huge skewers. Even so, Fennessy said the plight of giraffes has largely been overlooked in conservation circles.

"We're trying to increase awareness, educate people, help governments put conservation practices in place," said Fennessy, who founded the Giraffe Conservation Foundation to draw attention to the animals' plight. "If we don't, giraffe numbers are going to continue to drop."

The first time the trucks came for them in Koure was more than a decade ago, during the reign of an army colonel who seized power in a 1996 coup. Col. Ibrahim Bare Mainassara was adamant they would make a good gift for the president of neighboring Burkina Faso and he ordered several captured, said Omer Kodjo Dovi of the Niamey-based Association to Safeguard the Giraffes of Niger.

But "the giraffes went into a panic," Dovi said. "They couldn't outrun the trucks."



The animals weigh up to 2,200 pounds (1,000 kilograms) and can run at speeds up to 35 miles per hour (55 kilometers per hour). But if they fall, they can have difficulty getting up and die.

Dovi said five were captured. Three died on the spot; two were believed shipped to Burkina Faso. Nobody knows if they ever made it.

By 1998, Niger's government — pressed by conservation groups — began to realize the herds were about to disappear forever.

Authorities drafted new laws banning hunting and poaching. Killing a giraffe became punishable by five-year jail terms and fines amounting to hundreds of times the yearly income of farmers.

The changes had a startling effect: by 2004, the herds had nearly doubled in size.

The government "realized they had an invaluable biological and tourism resource: the last population left in West Africa," said Jean-Patrick Suraud, a French scientist with the Association to Safeguard the Giraffes of Niger.

In 2004, though, the trucks came again — this time on a mission for President Mamadou Tandja, who ordered a pair captured for the dictator of neighboring Togo. Four vehicles barreled down the two-lane highway toward the giraffe zone. Inside them were Togolese soldiers, government forestry rangers and three local guides, according to the independent local newspaper *Le Republicain*, which reported the incident and published photographs.

"They did it like cowboys," said Suraud, who began working in Niger in 2005.

"These are big animals, fragile. They can easily die of stress."

The giraffes were tied up, blindfolded, tranquilized and hauled onto the back of open-back trucks bound for the Togo border.

They died en route.

In Africa, giraffe skin is used for drums, watertight bowls, even shoes. Their bones are employed as grinders and some believe they can help bring rain. Mounkaila, the guide, said some villagers believe the hair on giraffe coats can induce fertility.

The villagers living around Koure, though, think giraffes are mostly useless, Suraud said. They aren't domesticated, and they can't be hunted for food. So the Association to Safeguard the Giraffes of Niger tries to teach people it's in their interest to keep them around.

"We tell them, 'if you are pro-giraffe, we can support you, give you loans,'" Suraud said. "But there is a quid pro quo. 'We also want you to stop chopping down their bushes and plant trees.'"

With 10 staff and help from private European zoos and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Giraffe Association has built wells, planted trees and educated guides like Mounkaila who make a living escorting visitors through "the giraffe zone" — the fenceless region the animals trek through.

Niger's herds bring in a modest amount of tourist money for the government, too, paid in small sums through \$10 fees distributed partly to the local district.

The Giraffe Association has focused especially on loans



A man watches the waves crash in the resort area of Cancun, Mexico, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009. Ida has grown into a hurricane for a second time as it moves over the Caribbean. Associated Press

Read more on Page 3

Senator calls for investigation of Fort Hood shooting

ALLEN G. BREED

AP National Writer

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — A key U.S. senator has called for an investigation into whether the Army missed signs that the man accused of opening fire at the Fort Hood military base had embraced an increasingly extremist view of Islamic ideology.

Sen. Joe Lieberman's call came as word surfaced that Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan apparently attended the same Virginia mosque as two Sept. 11 hijackers in 2001, at a time when a radical imam preached there. Whether Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, associated with the hijackers is something the FBI will probably look into, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing. Classmates participating in a 2007-2008 master's program at a military college complained repeatedly to superiors about what they considered Hasan's anti-American views. Dr. Val Finnell said Hasan gave a presentation at the Uniformed



Services University that justified suicide bombing and even told classmates that Islamic law trumped the U.S. Constitution.

Lieberman, an independent who is chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, wants Congress

to determine whether the shootings constitute a terrorist attack.

"If Hasan was showing signs, saying to people that he had become an Islamist extremist, the U.S. Army has to have zero tolerance," Lieberman said on "Fox News Sunday."

Continued on Next Page

Tough road ahead in Senate for health care bill

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Barack Obama said Sunday it was time for the Senate to take action after the House narrowly passed a far-reaching plan for overhauling the U.S. health care system. "For years we've been told that this couldn't be done," Obama said in a brief statement from the White House Rose Garden. "But last night the House proved different."

The Democratic-controlled House late Saturday passed its health care reform legislation, 220-215, but the road ahead in the Senate for Obama's top domestic priority promises to be tougher.



President Barack Obama speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House about health care reform and Iraq's new electoral law after returning from Camp David Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009, in Washington.

Associated Press

Continued on Page B4



Iraqi Islamic Party lawmaker Omar al-Jubori, speaks to the press after an Iraqi Parliament session about election law Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009. Iraq's parliament Sunday night passed a long-delayed election law needed to carry out nationwide elections, a debate that has been intensely watched over fears the holdup could delay the January elections and possibly delay the planned U.S. plans to withdraw their forces.

Associated Press

Iraq electoral law passes, sets up national vote

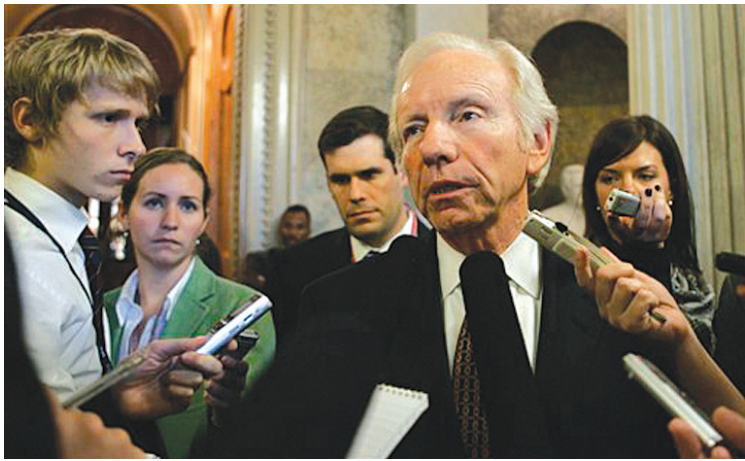
QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's parliament ended weeks of debate Sunday and passed a long-delayed law paving the way for the planned January election to go forward, sidestepping a crisis that could have delayed the U.S. troop withdrawal.

The decision appeared to resolve a key sticking point — who will be allowed to vote in the disputed, oil-rich city of Kirkuk. The issue had threatened to delay Iraq's key parliamentary elections, which in turn would affect how quickly American combat forces could leave the country.

Continued on Page B6



Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009.

FTHOOD

Continued from Page B1

"He should have been gone."

Authorities continue to refer to Hasan, 39, as the only suspect in the shootings that killed 13 and wounded 29, but they won't say when charges would be filed. They have not revealed a possible motive.

Hasan, who was shot by civilian police to end the rampage, was in critical but stable condition at an Army hospital in San Antonio.

He was breathing on his own after being taken off a ventilator on Saturday, but officials won't say whether

Hasan can communicate. Sixteen victims remained hospitalized with gunshot wounds, and seven were in intensive care.

Army Chief of Staff George Casey warned against reaching conclusions about the suspected shooter's motives until investigators have fully explored the attack. "I think the speculation (on Hasan's Islamic roots) could potentially heighten backlash against some of our Muslim soldiers," he said on ABC television.

A government official speaking on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized

Associated Press

to discuss the case said an initial review of Hasan's computer use has found no evidence of links to terror groups or anyone who might have helped plan or push him toward the attack. The review of Hasan's computer is continuing, the official said.

Hasan likely would face military justice rather than federal criminal charges if investigators determine the violence was the work of just one person.

There is no time limit on charging Hasan, but once he is in pre-trial confinement, the military has 120 days to start his trial, said John P. Galligan, an attorney who has represented Fort Hood soldiers but is not involved in the Hasan case.

However, defense attorneys often file motions that stop the 120-day clock. Authorities have said Hasan is "in custody" in the hospital, but it's unclear if that is considered pre-trial confinement.

Across the sprawling post and in neighboring Killeen, soldiers, their relatives and

members of the community struggled to make sense of the shootings. Candles burned Saturday night outside the apartment complex where Hasan lived. Small white crosses, one for each of the dead, dotted a lawn at a Killeen church on Sunday.

Even as the community took time to mourn the victims at worship services on and off the post, Fort Hood spokesman Col. John Rossi acknowledged that the country's largest military installation was moving forward with its usual business of soldiering. The processing center where Hasan allegedly opened fire on Thursday remains a crime scene, but the activities that went on there were relocated, with the goal of reopening the center as soon as Sunday.

Fort Hood is "continuing to prepare for the mission at hand," Rossi said. "There's a lot of routine activity still happening. You'll hear cannon fire and artillery fire. Soldiers in units are still trying to execute the missions we have been tasked with." □

Obama will meet Netanyahu at White House

By STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The White House announced Sunday that President Barack Obama would be meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu during the Israeli prime minister's trip to Washington to address Jewish groups, ending days of uncertainty.

Netanyahu was to arrive in the U.S. capital Sunday night for a speaking engagement at the three-day 2009 General Assembly of The Jewish Federations of North America. He will meet with Obama on Monday evening.

U.S.-Israeli relations have been strained since Netanyahu rejected Obama's demand that the Israeli government stop building or expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The Palestinians say Israel has deeply encroached into land the Palestinians claim for a future state. Not long after taking office, Obama announced his determination to facilitate peace between Israel and the Palestinians and said an end to settlements was a necessary condition for a resumption of negotiations.

Netanyahu has rejected that demand, but last week visiting Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton floated an Israeli proposal that would restrain — but not stop — more West Bank housing. She played it as a major conciliatory move from the Israelis. Palestinian and Arab diplomats reacted with outrage, and Clinton was forced to backpedal. Arab officials questioned whether the U.S. had tilted toward Israel, abandoning the American position that continued Israel settlements were illegitimate and must end. Clinton's comments may have reflected a realization within the Obama administration that the conservative Netanyahu would not accept a full-on settlement freeze and that a partial halt might be the most likely, if lesser option. Her appeal seemed designed to make the Israeli position more palatable to the Palestinians and Arab states. □

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Late-season hurricane takes aim at U.S. Gulf Coast

BECKY BOHRER

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Hurricane Ida, the first Atlantic hurricane to target the United States this year, plodded Sunday toward the Gulf Coast with 100 mph winds, bringing the threat of flooding and storm surges. A hurricane watch extended over more than 200 miles of coastline across southeastern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Louisiana's governor declared a state of emergency.

Authorities said Ida could make landfall as early as Tuesday morning, although it was forecast to weaken by then. Officials and residents kept a close eye on the Category 2 hurricane as it approached, though there were no immediate plans for evacuations.

At 1 p.m., Ida was located 510 miles south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River and moving northwest near 10 mph. The latest forecast from the National Hurricane Center shows Ida brushing near Louisiana and Mississippi, then making landfall near Alabama before continuing across north Florida.

Yet many residents took the forecast in stride.

"Even though we're telling everybody to be prepared, my gut tells me it probably won't be that bad," said Steve Arndt, director of Bay Point Marina Co. in Panama City, Florida.

In Louisiana, Gov. Bobby Jindal had declared a state of emergency as a precaution, and the National Guard was on high alert if assistance was needed. New Orleans wasn't

included in the hurricane watch.

But officials were encouraging residents to prepare for potential gusts of 60 mph (96.5 kph) by removing any tree limbs that could damage their homes and securing or bringing in any trash cans, grills, potted plants or patio furniture.

Mississippi authorities warned residents to be vigilant. Authorities were monitoring conditions to see whether any evacuations of lower-lying areas or school closures would be necessary.

"It is likely we will at least be hit with strong winds and some flooding in our coastal counties," said Jeff Rent, a spokesman for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Officials "do not want anybody to be caught off guard."

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director Mike Womack said forecasts called for tides of 4 feet to 7 feet above normal and rainfall totals of up to 7 inches within 24 hours, which could mean flooding along the coasts and along rivers. Alabama emergency management officials did not immediately respond to phone messages.

In the Florida Panhandle, residents in Bay County and Panama City were being advised to secure boats and



Louisiana Gov. Booby Jindal talks to International Paper Mill employee Rober Carrol, right, as Pineville Mayor Clarence Fields, center, listens during a visit by the governor to Pineville City Hall, La.

Associated Press

prepare for storm surges that could reach 3 feet. Heavy rain, wind and possible flooding was also expected. "You really don't know until it gets close how you're going to be affected by it," said Brad Monroe, Bay County's deputy chief of emergency services.

Ida wasn't expected to pack the wallop seen in 2008 when hurricanes Gustav and Ike pelted the Gulf Coast back-to-back. There have been nine named storms this season, which ends Dec. 1. Ida is only the third hurricane

to form, and neither of the others threatened land.

Ida wasn't expected to directly threaten New Orleans, where unflappable fans at the Saints football game seemed unaware a storm was approaching.

"We're used to tropical storms," said David Clements of Chalmette, La. "That's why we have a dome."

Earlier Sunday, Ida's wind and rain whipped palm trees in the Mexican resort city of Cancun. Fishermen tied their boats down, though tourists seemed to regard it as a

minor setback.

"It's not what we expected," said Kathleen Weisser, a nurse from Fernley, Nevada. "We wanted sun. Instead we have liquid sunshine."

Ron Kaczorowski, of Chicago, said his daughter was forced to move her beach wedding inside because of the storm. He said he had tried to reassure his disappointed daughter that the nasty weather would make her wedding stand out. "I told her, 'How many people get married in a hurricane?'" □

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Speaker Nancy Pelosi, center, is joined by (L-R) Majority Whip James Clyburn, and Rep. George Miller, D-Calif. during a press conference at the U.S. Capitol, Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009 in Washington after the passage in the house of the health care reform bill.

HEALTH CARE BILL

Continued from Page B1

The president said the House vote took courage for many lawmakers because of the heated and often misleading rhetoric that accompanied debate over how the legislation would change the system. Obama made a rare Saturday visit to Capitol Hill hours before Saturday's vote to lobby wavering Democrats.

"Now it falls on the United States Senate to take the baton and bring this effort to the finish line on behalf of the American people, and

I'm absolutely confident that they will," Obama said. "I'm equally convinced that on the day that we gather here at the White House and I sign comprehensive health insurance reform legislation into law, they'll be able to join their House colleagues and say this was their finest moment in public service."

Republican lawmakers have vowed to do all they can to stop the Democratic plan, which they contend will cost jobs, raise insurance rates and lead to huge tax increases. The Senate has yet to schedule

Associated Press

debate on its version of health care reform.

House Republicans were nearly unanimous in opposing the plan that would expand coverage to tens of millions of Americans who lack it and place tough new restrictions on the insurance industry.

But in the Senate, more than a simple majority is needed for passage, and several centrist Democrats still have reservations, particularly about establishing a government-sponsored insurance program, or public option, to compete with private insurers.

"The House bill is dead on arrival in the Senate," Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said Sunday. "It was a bill written by liberals for liberals."

A Democratic colleague, Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, predicted an overhaul would pass the Senate because "it's essential" to the country's economic success and people's quality of life. "It will take time," he added.

The House bill is projected to expand coverage to 36 million uninsured, or 96 percent of Americans. The United States is the only developed nation that does not have a comprehensive national health care plan.

A triumphant House Speaker Nancy Pelosi likened the legislation to the passage of the

government's Social Security pension program in 1935 and Medicare health insurance for the elderly 30 years later.

Republicans detailed their objections across hours of debate on the 1,990-page, 10-year \$1.2 trillion legislation.

"We are going to have a complete government takeover of our health care system faster than you can say, 'this is making me sick,'" said Rep. Candice Miller of Michigan. She added that Democrats were intent on passing "a job-killing, tax-hiking, deficit-exploding" bill.

In the run-up to a final vote, conservatives from the two political parties joined forces to impose tough new restrictions on abortion coverage in insurance policies to be sold to many individuals and small groups.

The legislation would require most Americans to carry insurance and provide federal subsidies to those who otherwise could not afford it. Large companies would have to offer coverage to their employees. Both consumers and companies would be slapped with penalties if they defied the government's mandates.

Insurance industry practices such as denying coverage because of medical conditions would be banned, and insurers would no longer be able to

charge higher premiums on the basis of gender or medical history. The industry would also lose its exemption from federal antitrust restrictions on price fixing and market allocation.

At its core, the measure would create a federally regulated marketplace where consumers could shop for coverage. In the bill's most controversial provision, the government would sell insurance, although the Congressional Budget Office forecasts that premiums for it would be more expensive than for policies sold by private companies.

Graham said he thinks the government option "will destroy private health care. Nobody in this country in the insurance business can compete with a government-sponsored plan, where the government writes the benefits and politicians will never raise the premiums."

Sen. Joe Lieberman, an independent from Connecticut, said that "if the public option plan is in there, as a matter of conscience, I will not allow this bill to come to a final vote because I believe the debt can break America and send us into a recession that's worse than the one we're fighting our way out of today."

The House bill drew the votes of 219 Democrats and Rep. Joseph Cao, a first-term Republican who holds an overwhelmingly Democratic seat in New Orleans. Opposed were 176 Republicans and 39 Democrats, mostly moderates from Republican-leaning states.

Over all, the bill envisioned the most sweeping set of changes to the U.S. health care system in more than a generation, and Democrats said it marked the culmination of a campaign that Harry Truman began when he sat in the White House 60 years ago.

To pay for the expansion of coverage, the bill cuts Medicare's projected spending by more than \$400 billion over a decade. It also imposes a tax surcharge of 5.4 percent on income over \$500,000 in the case of individuals and \$1 million for families.

From the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada issued a statement saying, ☐



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Philly transit strike in sixth day; no new talks

By RON TODT

Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Commuters in the City of Brotherly Love have been told to gear up to begin a second week of finding other ways to work following the collapse of a proposed deal to end a six-day-old strike by about 5,000 bus drivers, subway and trolley conductors and mechanics.

The largest union representing workers of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority wants an independent forensic audit of pension funds. The union is also rejecting language that could reopen the contract if SEPTA's costs increase due to national health care reform.

SEPTA spokesman Richard Maloney said the ball is in the union's court "to come back to the table and sign the contract."

"We feel badly for our riders," he said Sunday. "They're being unnecessarily hurt in many ways across the five-county area. There are countless thousands of people who are suffering, and it's unnecessary." Jamie Horwitz, spokesman for the Transport Workers Local 234, said the two sides had reached agreement on monetary and pension issues, but differences remained on the health

reform provision and union president Willie Brown's call for an audit.

"Like riders, we want a resolution to this," Horwitz said Sunday. "We also have a responsibility to our members."

Pensions have been the major issue in the strike and "there are many questions about the way the pension was managed by SEPTA," Horwitz said.

Brown told reporters Saturday night that if the agency did not agree to an audit "then I guess we're going to be here for a while."

The health care language has taken on new urgency following the U.S. House's approval of a health care reform bill late Saturday, Horwitz said. The provision could lead to another strike or another lengthy round of negotiation before the five-year agreement runs its course, he said.

"That's not acceptable to the union and we would like to see a contract that is binding for the length of the agreement," he said.

Both sides said no new meetings were scheduled.

Gov. Ed Rendell, who had been brokering the talks, said he was leaving the negotiations and taking \$7 million in state funding with him



unless union members are allowed to vote on the agency's proposal on Monday.

But Brown told reporters that could not happen for "the same reason the president of the United States would not bypass the Congress and the Senate and take it to the people and say 'Let's vote.' That's not what our constitution says. Our constitution says it goes through the executive board." The union had threatened to strike while the World Series was in town, but negotiators continued bargaining after Rendell threatened "significant consequences" if that happened. The union went on strike

early Tuesday, hours after the series between the Phillies and Yankees shifted back to New York.

Regional SEPTA trains have continued to run because their workers are represented by a different union, but the system has seen packed trains and problems of its own. A railcar heading downtown caught fire Wednesday, causing delays and confusion but no serious injuries. The next day, a train struck and killed a rail worker, stranding hundreds of riders during the morning rush hour. The agency said neither accident was related to increased volume due to the strike. □

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Iraqi Shiite Turkmen lawmaker Abbas Hasan al-Bayati , left, speaks as Iraqi Shiite Turkmen lawmaker Fawzi Akram looks on during a press conference after an Iraqi Parliament session about election law on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009. Iraq’s parliament Sunday night passed a long-delayed election law needed to carry out nationwide elections, a debate that has been intensely watched over fears the holdup could delay the January elections and possibly delay the planned U.S. plans to withdraw their forces.

Associated Press

NATIONAL VOTE

Continued from Page B1

In a sign of how intensely Washington was following the debate, U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill could be seen shuttling between various political factions before the law’s passage. President Barack Obama, speaking at the White House, welcomed the new legislation. “This is an important milestone as the Iraqi people continue to take responsibility for their future. I want to congratulate Iraq’s leaders for reaching this agreement,” Obama said. “The United States will continue to stand with Iraq as a strong partner and as a friend.”

Iraq’s prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, in a statement posted on his Web site, hailed the election law’s passage as a “historic victory of the will of the people,” and described it as a strong response to the people who are trying to undermine the country’s security.

The U.S. ambassador, speaking to reporters after the vote, said the American troop drawdown will proceed as scheduled. Military commanders have said the U.S. troop withdrawal would start in earnest about 60 days after the vote, the idea being that the country would be on stable footing by then.

“What is important is that with the election law, we are very much on schedule for the drawdown,” Hill said.

Under the president’s plan, all U.S. combat troops will be out of the country by the end of August 2010, leaving about 50,000 trainers and support troops, who in turn would leave by the end of 2011.

It was not clear exactly when

the election would be held — Jan. 16 as originally planned or a later date in January. The head of the Independent High Electoral Commission, Faraj al-Haidari, told The Associated Press that he expected the vote to be held within a week of Jan. 16.

Deputy Parliament Speaker, Khalid al-Attiyah said it would likely be held January 21 or 23. The Iraqi constitution mandates that the vote takes place in January, but does not specify which day.

Once the legislation is approved by the president and his two vice presidents, the election commission will decide how many days are needed to hold the vote, al-Haidari said. Then the commission will send a letter to parliament and to the prime minister to inform them of their decision.

The law’s passage had been repeatedly delayed by sharp disagreements over how voting would take place in the northern city of Kirkuk, claimed by both Arabs and Kurds and a major flashpoint in the country.

Kurds consider Kirkuk a Kurdish city and want it part of their self-ruled region in northern Iraq. During the rule of former dictator Saddam Hussein, tens of thousands of Kurds were displaced under a forced plan by Saddam to make Kirkuk predominantly Arab, though many of these have since returned.

The Arab-led central government vehemently opposes anything that would remove Kirkuk from its control.

Under the legislation passed Sunday, the vote in Kirkuk would be held just like in other regions around the

country, but the votes could be subject to a special review if it is determined that there was a more than five percent increase in the voter rolls from 2004 to 2009. Arabs and the Turkomens claim Kurds have packed the city with immigrants to tip the balance in their favor.

The legislation did not include any guaranteed seats for Arab and Turkomen lawmakers from Kirkuk, something which had been discussed in earlier versions. Both Kurds and Arabs appeared to claim victory after the sometimes raucous parliament session that was televised live on Iraq state TV.

“This is a good law because it occurred after broad agreement, and it presents a solution to a problem that we have now solved. It doesn’t achieve all our (Kurdish) ambitions, but it achieves a balance,” said Mahmoud Othman, a Kurdish lawmaker.

But Omar al-Jabouri, a Sunni member of parliament, called the voting “a great victory,” because, he said, Kurds were forced to accept special circumstances in regards to the Kirkuk voting.

The law passed with 141 votes, but it was not immediately known how many of the parliament’s 275 members voted against the legislation or even attended the session. Low turnouts are common in Iraq’s parliament, which often does not have enough people to form the necessary 138-person quorum.

“It’s a good step that we have a resolution to this and have elections,” said Michael Wahid Hanna, an analyst at the New York-based Century Foundation.

However, he added that the disputes such as the long-brewing debate over the election law, have paralyzed Iraq’s political process and “have shown that it’s incapable of solving the big questions,” such as how to deal with disputed territories.

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Chavez to troops: Prepare for war with Colombia

CHRISTOPHER TOOTHAKER

Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez on Sunday ordered Venezuela's military to prepare for a possible armed conflict with Colombia, saying his country's soldiers should be ready if the United States attempts to provoke a war between the South American neighbors.

Chavez said Venezuela could end up going to war with Colombia as tensions between them rise, and he warned that if a conflict broke out "it could extend throughout the whole continent."

"The best way to avoid war is preparing for it," Chavez told military officers during his weekly television and radio program. Venezuela's socialist leader has also cited a recent deal between Bogota and Washington giving U.S. troops greater access to military bases as a threat to regional stability.

There was no immediate reaction from either the Colombian or U.S. government, but in the past they have denied intentions to start a war with Venezuela and said the base deal is needed to fight the war on drugs and insurgents in Colombia, which is a major cocaine producer struggling with a decades-old internal conflict.

Tensions along the Venezuela-

Colombia border have been exacerbated in recent weeks by a series of shootings and slayings.

Four men on motorcycles shot and killed two Venezuelan National Guard troops at a checkpoint near the border in Venezuela's western Tachira state last week, prompting Chavez's government to temporarily close some border crossings.

And last month, Venezuelan authorities arrested at least 10 people in Tachira alleging involvement in paramilitary groups. The bullet-ridden bodies of 11 men, nine of them Colombians, were also found last month in Tachira after being abducted from a soccer field.

The violence prompted Venezuela to send 15,000 soldiers to the border with Colombia on Thursday. Officials said the buildup was necessary to increase security along the border.

Elsa Cardoso, a professor of international relations at the Central University of Venezuela, suggested that Chavez's heated rhetoric — coupled with the recent military deployments — are aimed at turning the public's attention away from pressing domestic problems ranging from rampant crime to electricity and water rationing.

"He's sending up a smoke screen, a distraction," she said.

Colombian rebels have often used



In this image released by Miraflores Press Office, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez waves to supporters in Acarigua, Venezuela, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009. Chavez ordered Venezuela's military on Sunday to prepare for a possible armed conflict with Colombia, saying the country's soldiers should be ready if the U.S. attempts to provoke a war between the South American neighbors.

Associated Press

Venezuela's border region as a haven to resupply and treat their wounded in recent years, creating friction with Colombia's U.S.-allied government.

Chavez — former army paratrooper who during more than a decade in power has repeatedly accused Washington of seeking to topple him to seize Venezuela's oil reserves — warned President Barack Obama of using his alliance with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe to mount an offensive against Venezuela.

"The empire is more threatening

than ever," Chavez said, referring to the U.S. government. "Don't make a mistake, Mr. Obama, by ordering an attack against Venezuela by way of Colombia."

Venezuelan opposition leader Julio Borges urged Chavez to hold talks with Colombian officials to ease the tensions.

"Working together is only way to efficiently confront this problem, to finally end the permanent threat from illegal groups such as paramilitaries and guerrillas," Borges said. □

Government: 91 dead in El Salvador flooding



Residents stand on a bridge that collapsed due to heavy rain in Zacatecoluca, El Salvador, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009. El Salvador's interior minister says the death toll is now 91 from floods and slides touched off by three days of heavy rains.

Associated Press

DIEGO MENDEZ

Associated Press Writer

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Three days

of heavy rains in El Salvador Sunday.

touched off floods and slides that have killed at least 91 people, the government said

Dozens are still missing, and about 7,000 are in shelters, Interior Minister Humberto

Centeno told a news conference.

Authorities had to use helicopters to reach some of the most severely affected townships, Centeno added.

In the capital of San Salvador, authorities reported 61 dead including a family of four — two adults and two children — who were killed when a mudslide buried their home Sunday morning, Red Cross spokesman Carlos Lopez Mendoza reported.

Central San Vicente province was also hit hard, with 23 killed there.

The rest died in other parts of the country, Vice Interior Minister Ernesto Zelayandia told The Associated Press. Most of the victims were buried by slides or carried away by raging rivers.

“We have been through disaster zones, including a fly-over of the area of Verapaz (in San Vicente),” Centeno said. “It is a real tragedy there,” with at

least 60 people unaccounted for, he said.

Centeno said it has been impossible to reach many of the affected areas because of damage to roads.

Red Cross spokesman Carlos Lopez said a river in Verapaz overflowed its banks and swamped 300 homes.

The rains unleashed massive rock slides from the Chichontepec volcano that buried several houses, Verapaz Mayor Antonio Cerritos told Radio Nacional.

Dave Roberts, a Navy hurricane specialist at the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami, said Hurricane Ida's presence in the western Caribbean may have played a role in drawing a Pacific low-pressure system toward El Salvador, causing the rains.

He added, however, that “if there were deaths associated with this rainfall amount in El Salvador, I would not link it to Ida.” □

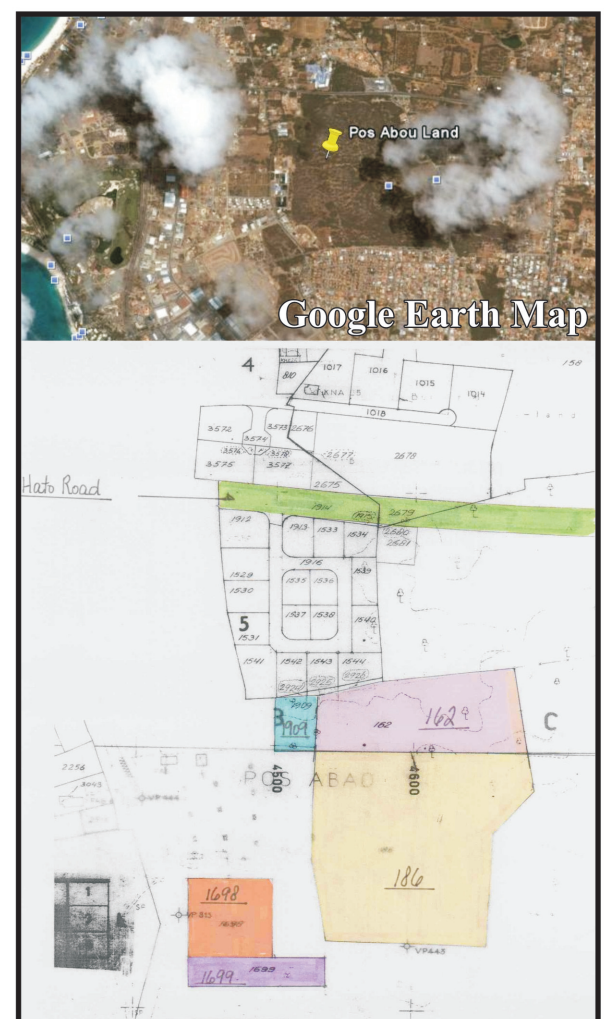
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Clinton: Berlin Wall festivities not just a party

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writer

BERLIN (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged Europeans and Americans on Sunday to see the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall as a call to action against new global threats. On the eve of celebrations marking 20 years since the collapse of the wall that divided East and West Berlin, Clinton said the hard work that went into ending the Cold War must be channeled to meet fresh challenges, including the fights against extremism and climate change.

As the Obama administration looks to often reluctant European allies to bolster their NATO forces in Afghanistan, Clinton said Monday's commemoration of Nov. 9, 1989, the night "when history pierced the concrete and concertina wire," must look forward and not back.

"Our history did not end the night the wall came down, it began anew," she told a group of U.S. and European dignitaries while accepting a Freedom Award on behalf of the American people from The Atlantic Council, a group that promotes trans-Atlantic ties.

The moment the festivities begin "should be a call to action, not just a commemoration of past actions," Clinton said. "That call should spur us to continue our cooperation and look for new ways that we can meet the challenges that freedom faces now."

"We owe it to ourselves and to those who yearn for

the same freedoms that are enjoyed and even taken for granted in Berlin today," she said.

Clinton praised U.S.-European collaboration on ending the world financial crisis as well as steps to cooperate on global warming. She also hailed NATO security operations, from Afghanistan to fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia.

But she said the spirit of the Berlin Wall's destruction — the symbolic end to the Cold War — had to be reinforced.

"We need to form an even stronger partnership to bring down the walls of the 21st century and to confront those who hide behind them: suicide bombers, those who murder and maim girls whose only wish is to go to school, leaders who chose their own fortune over the fortune of their people."

Clinton will lead the U.S. delegation to Monday's ceremonies in Berlin.

Other speakers at The Atlantic Council event on Sunday were more blunt.

Former U.S. national security adviser Brent Scowcroft, who served under Presidents Ford and George H.W. Bush, lamented that trans-Atlantic cooperation and understanding had fallen off in the two decades since the Berlin Wall fell.

"We no longer have an intimacy of dialogue like we had in 1989," he said. "It's important that we restore that closeness in order that we can all in unity face the challenges confronting us."

Other U.S. foreign policy veterans at the event



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, right, and German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, left, show the Freedom Award for the American and German people, they received during the Freedom Award's Ceremony of the Atlantic Council in Berlin, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009.

Associated Press

included former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. □

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NFL Roundup

Rookie QB leads Bucs to first win, 38-28 over GB

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Rookie Josh Freeman passed for 205 yards and three touchdowns Sunday to lead the previously winless Bucs to a 38-28 victory over the Green Bay Packers.

In his first pro start, Freeman completed 14 of 31 passes with just one interception. A critical second pick was wiped out by a Green Bay penalty during the go-ahead drive.

The Bucs were the last team in the NFL to win this season. It was also the first victory for the league's youngest head coach, 33-year-old Raheem Morris, who replaced Jon Gruden after Tampa Bay went 0-4 in December and missed the playoffs last year.

Aaron Rodgers threw for 266 yards and two touchdowns for the Packers, who have won four and lost four. He also threw three interceptions and had one returned for a TD that put the game out of reach in



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Josh Freeman (5) celebrates with offensive coordinator Greg Olson after throwing a fourth-quarter touchdown against the green Bay Packers during an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009, in Tampa, Fla. The Buccaneers defeated the Packers 38-28.

Associated Press

the final minute.

Colts 20, Texans 17

At Indianapolis, running back Joseph Addai scored the go-ahead touchdown with 7:11 left and Houston's Kris Brown missed a 42-yard field goal as time expired, keeping Indianapolis undefeated.

Indy is the fourth team in league history with 17 straight wins. New England has done it twice and Chicago did it in 1933-34. Jim Caldwell became the first rookie coach to go 8-0 since Patsy Clark in 1930.

Indianapolis blew a 13-0 first-half lead and trailed 17-13 when Steve Slaton opened the fourth quarter with a 1-yard TD run. But Addai answered with a 2-yard TD run to rally the Colts.

Peyton Manning also became the first quarterback in league history to throw for 40,000 yards within a decade.

Continued on Page B12



Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with the trophy after winning 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 against Switzerland's Roger Federer during their final match at the Davidoff Swiss Indoors tennis tournament in Basle, Switzerland, on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009.

GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Top-ranked Roger Federer lost his hometown tournament on Sunday, falling 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 to Novak Djokovic in the Swiss Indoors final. Djokovic earned his fourth

Associated Press
tournament win of the season with a victory that ended Federer's run of three straight titles at the event.

"It's disappointing to lose at home in the finals, no doubt," Federer said.

"I thought I missed plenty of opportunities. I'm not looking

Federer loses to Djokovic in Swiss Indoors final

for excuses.

He played tough and he played well when he had to, and saved a ton of break points that were crucial."

Djokovic improved to 3-2 this year against Federer, who he called the best tennis player. "I have to produce something special to win," Djokovic said at sold-out St. Jakobshalle. "I think I played one of the best matches of the year."

The second-seeded Serb clinched the first set by saving five break points in a game that lasted 24 minutes.

"It may be the longest I have ever played in my life," Djokovic said. "It was maybe the turning point in the whole match. I was fortunate to keep

my nerves."

Federer fought back from a break down to win the second set and rouse his partisan fans.

Djokovic raced to a 4-0 lead in the decider, and closed out the victory after Federer wasted three break points in the sixth game.

It was a tour-leading 71st win this year for Djokovic, who improved to 4-5 in finals in 2009. His other title wins were at Dubai, his home event at Belgrade, and Beijing last month.

Federer is now 59-9 this year after losing only his third match since May.

The first set went with serve, until Federer was broken for

the first time in the tournament to trail 5-4. Then came that tense, error-strewn game that featured 11 deuces before Djokovic took his seventh set-point chance.

Federer dropped serve again to open the second set, sending another forehand into the net. But he won his next service game, and then broke his opponent for the first time when a drop shot grazed the net cord before falling in play. He broke Djokovic's serve again to win the set when the 22-year-old Serb sent a forehand into the net. Djokovic rallied immediately in the decider, Federer dropping two straight service games for the second time in the match. □



A man watches the waves crash in the resort area of Cancun, Mexico, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009. Ida has grown into a hurricane for a second time as it moves over the Caribbean. Associated Press

Read more on Page 3

Senator calls for investigation of Fort Hood shooting

ALLEN G. BREED

AP National Writer

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — A key U.S. senator has called for an investigation into whether the Army missed signs that the man accused of opening fire at the Fort Hood military base had embraced an increasingly extremist view of Islamic ideology.

Sen. Joe Lieberman's call came as word surfaced that Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan apparently attended the same Virginia mosque as two Sept. 11 hijackers in 2001, at a time when a radical imam preached there. Whether Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, associated with the hijackers is something the FBI will probably look into, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Classmates participating in a 2007-2008 master's program at a military college complained repeatedly to superiors about what they considered Hasan's anti-American views. Dr. Val Finnell said Hasan gave a presentation at the Uniformed



Services University that justified suicide bombing and even told classmates that Islamic law trumped the U.S. Constitution.

Lieberman, an independent who is chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, wants Congress

to determine whether the shootings constitute a terrorist attack.

"If Hasan was showing signs, saying to people that he had become an Islamist extremist, the U.S. Army has to have zero tolerance," Lieberman said on "Fox News Sunday."

Continued on Next Page

Tough road ahead in Senate for health care bill

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Barack Obama said Sunday it was time for the Senate to take action after the House narrowly passed a far-reaching plan for overhauling the U.S. health care system. "For years we've been told that this couldn't be done," Obama said in a brief statement from the White House Rose Garden. "But last night the House proved different."

The Democratic-controlled House late Saturday passed its health care reform legislation, 220-215, but the road ahead in the Senate for Obama's top domestic priority promises to be tougher.



President Barack Obama speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House about health care reform and Iraq's new electoral law after returning from Camp David Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009, in Washington.

Associated Press

Continued on Page B4



Iraqi Islamic Party lawmaker Omar al-Jubori, speaks to the press after an Iraqi Parliament session about election law Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009. Iraq's parliament Sunday night passed a long-delayed election law needed to carry out nationwide elections, a debate that has been intensely watched over fears the holdup could delay the January elections and possibly delay the planned U.S. plans to withdraw their forces.

Associated Press

Iraq electoral law passes, sets up national vote

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's parliament ended weeks of debate Sunday and passed a long-delayed law paving the way for the planned January election to go forward, sidestepping a crisis that could have delayed the U.S. troop withdrawal.

The decision appeared to resolve a key sticking point — who will be allowed to vote in the disputed, oil-rich city of Kirkuk. The issue had threatened to delay Iraq's key parliamentary elections, which in turn would affect how quickly American combat forces could leave the country.

Continued on Page B6



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New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and wide receiver Randy Moss (81) talk during the second quarter of the Patriots' 27-17 win in an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009.

NFL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B10

Patriots 27, Dolphins 17

At Foxborough, Randy Moss set up the Patriots' first touchdown with a one-handed, 36-yard grab at the Dolphins 1-yard line, then scored on a 71-yard play after catching the ball about 10 yards beyond the line of scrimmage.

Miami's two touchdowns came on possessions on which it used the wildcat most extensively — after gaining just 36 yards on 21 wildcat plays in its previous two games. But New England's quick-strike ability took back the momentum.

Moss caught six passes for 147 yards, while Tom Brady

went 25 for 37 for 332 yards, his third straight game with more than 300 yards and team-record 27th of his career.

Bengals 17, Ravens 7

At Cincinnati, the Bengals scored on their first three possessions, then spent the rest of the time chasing Baltimore's Joe Flacco around the field.

Cardinals 41, Bears 21

At Chicago, one week after throwing five interceptions, Kurt Warner tied a career high by throwing five touchdown passes. Larry Fitzgerald added 123 yards receiving and two touchdowns.

Warner was at his best after a miserable performance in a 34-21 loss to Carolina. He handled a team that had a chance to sign him as a backup four years ago, matching the record for TD passes by a Bears opponent without getting picked off.

Warner completed 23 of 32 for 261 yards and threw touchdown passes on the first four possessions. Neil Rackers added field goals on the next two, sending Arizona to an easy win and Chicago to a damaging loss.

Falcons 31, Redskins 17

At Atlanta, Michael Turner ran for a season-high 166 yards, breaking away from former Falcons CB DeAngelo Hall on a 58-yard touchdown that finished off Washington early in the fourth quarter.

Jaguars 24, Chiefs 21

At Jacksonville, David Garrard threw for 264 yards, including a 61-yard touchdown to Mike Sims-Walker. □

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Chávez pide a militares “prepararse para guerra” con Colombia

CARACAS (AP) - El presidente Hugo Chávez ordenó el domingo al ejército venezolano prepararse para un posible enfrentamiento armado con Colombia, y dijo que los soldados deben estar listos si Estados Unidos intenta provocar una guerra entre los vecinos sudamericanos.

Chávez manifestó que Venezuela podría terminar yendo a la guerra con Colombia a medida que crecen las tensiones entre ambos países, y advirtió que si surge un conflicto armado “podría extenderse por todo el continente”.

“La mejor forma de evitar la guerra es preparándose para ella”, dijo Chávez a los oficiales del ejército durante su mensaje semanal por televisión y radio. “Si quieres la paz, prepárate para la guerra”, afirmó, repitiendo una máxima militar que suele emplearse con cierta frecuencia.

Chávez le dijo a sus simpatizantes el domingo que el presidente Barack Obama tiene influencia en el gobierno de Colombia, y advirtió al mandatario estadounidense que evite utilizar a sus aliados en Bogotá para crear una ofensiva militar contra Venezuela.

“El imperio está más amenazante que nunca”, afirmó Chávez, refiriéndose al gobierno de Estados Unidos. “No se vaya a equivocar, señor Obama, y vaya ordenando una agresión contra Venezuela a través de Colombia”.

Las tensiones en la frontera entre ambos países han crecido en las últimas semanas debido a una serie de balceras y homicidios.



En esta imagen difundida por la oficina de prensa del Palacio de Miraflores, el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez saluda a sus partidarios en Acarigua, Venezuela, el domingo 8 de noviembre del 2009. (AP foto/Oficina de prensa de Miraflores)

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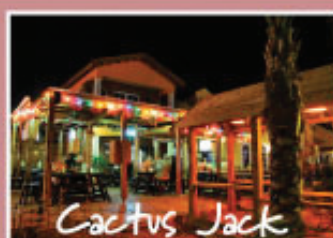


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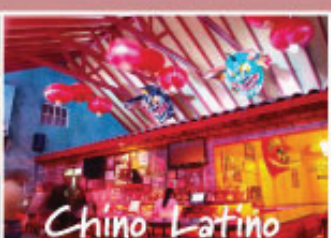
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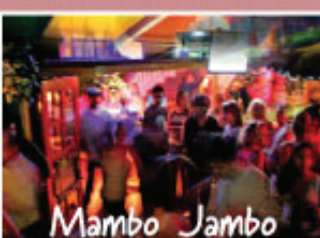
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